

Name of Lead Agency	Travis County Health and Human Services/Veteran Services
Location	Austin, TX
Title of Project	Parenting in Recovery (PIR)/PIRII
Program Option	Five- Year plus Two Year Extension
Geographic Area and Congressional District Served	25 th Congressional District; Urban
Brief Program Description	<p>The Parenting in Recovery (PIR) program aimed to address parental substance abuse and child safety, permanency and well-being among families who were involved in the child welfare system. The project brought together a coalition of community service providers to deliver a flexible, comprehensive continuum of services to drug/alcohol dependent women with children under the age of five who were involved in the state child welfare system. The core objectives of the PIR program we're to assist mothers of young children in recovery from substance dependence, maintain or regain custody and establish a safe and healthy home for their child(ren). In the second year of RPG I, the program merged with the new Family Drug Treatment Court (FDTC), which started concurrent with RPG I and funded with Access to Recovery (ATR) funding. PIR mothers were admitted to a comprehensive residential care program for up to 90 days. Up to two children under the age of five were allowed to attend treatment if the mother had custody at that time. They were also required to participate in the FDTC, attending weekly FDTC sessions and interacting with the judge, the drug court team, their case manager and other FDTC participants.</p> <p>The grantee was awarded a Two-Year Extension with a primary focus on enhancing and expanding services to support the children's well-being, enhancing their data collection to respond to data requests from their partners and key stakeholders, and ensuring they were able to sustain their program post-grant funding. During their final two years they continued and refined their services to mothers while accepting fathers into the program. They also added wraparound services for children, including medical and dental care and therapeutic services to address children's social-emotional and behavioral concerns. The grantee and partners also focused on developing a more trauma-informed and trauma-responsive continuum of care for parents and children.</p>
Target	The target population for the PIR/PIR II project included women with young children under the age of five who reside in Travis County, are identified as

Population	substance dependent, and have an open investigation with CPS. Mothers who give birth to a positive toxicology infant were automatically eligible for the program even if they were not involved with CPS at that time.
Participants Served	Children: 245 Adults: 151 Families: 151
Major Goals	<p>RPG I Goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide cross-systems training for child welfare and substance abuse counselors to promote more effective collaboration and treatment planning and increase ability to serve families with substance dependency problems and child welfare involvement 2. Preclude or decrease the number of out-of-home placements for children of mothers with substance dependency and 3. Increase the safety and well-being of children of substance dependent mothers by reducing risks factors and increasing protective factors for child maltreatment. <p>Additional Goals for RPG 2-Year Extension</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Advance the service delivery system for the children/youth of the project by providing assessments, individualized supports and services and consistent legal representation in court. 5. Further develop the existing collaboration through the implementation of a self-sufficient shared data collection system with an emphasis on performance indicators at the local level. 6. Conclude the sustainability plan for project. Additionally, during this extension period PIR II will collaborate with two organizations to bring additional training to the local workforce.
Key Major Program Services	<p>Case Management and In-Home Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intensive/Coordinated Case Management • Family Group Decision Making/Family Case Conferencing • Wraparound/Intensive In-Home Comprehensive Services <p>Parenting/Family Strengthening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard Parenting Skills Training/Education or Parenting Classes • Enhanced Parenting Services • Evidence-Based Parenting or Family Strengthening Program – Nurturing Parent <p>Visitation Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervised Visitation

- Therapeutic Visitation

Mental Health and Trauma Services for Adults

- Mental Health Services and Psychiatric Care Including Medication Management
- Trauma-Informed Services
- Trauma-Specific Services- Seeking Safety

Substance Abuse Prevention Services

- Information Dissemination
- Prevention Education

Substance Abuse Treatment for Adults

- Long-Term Residential/Inpatient (more than 30 days)
- Residential/Inpatient Treatment – Specialized for Parents with Children
- Intensive Outpatient
- Aftercare/Continuing Care/Recovery Community Support Services

Screening and Assessment – Child Welfare and Other Children’s Issues

- Screening and Assessment for Child Welfare Issues
- Screening and Assessment for Trauma
- Other Specialized Child Screening and Assessment – Developmental, Mental Health/Psychological

Screening and Assessment – Substance Use and Other Adult Issues

- Screening and Assessment for Substance Use Disorders
- Other Specialized Adult Screening and Assessment – Parenting, Psycho-Social

Specialized Outreach, Engagement and Retention

- Cognitive Behavioral Strategies – Contingency Management
- Recovery Coach/Specialist
- Family Team Meetings

Engagement/Involvement of Fathers

- Targeted Outreach

Family-Centered Substance Abuse Treatment

Family Treatment Drug Courts/Dependency Drug Courts

Housing Services

- Housing Support and Assistance Services
- Transitional, Interim or Temporary Short-Term Housing

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent Housing <p>Cross-Systems Collaboration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical and Program Training • Cross-systems Policies and Procedures • Regular Joint Case Staffing Meetings • Cross-systems information sharing and Data Analysis <p>Children’s Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Intervention • Trauma Services for Children/Youth – Child Parent Psychotherapy <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational Counseling • Vocational/Employment Services • Domestic Violence
<p>Partner Agencies and Organizations</p>	<p>Child Welfare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Texas Department of Family and Protective Services <p>Substance Abuse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travis County Health and Human Services and Veterans Service • Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP) • Austin Recovery <p>Courts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Drug Treatment Court • Travis County Civil Courts <p>Criminal Justice, Law Enforcement, Legal and Related Organizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travis County District Attorney • Travis County Office of Child Representation <p>Other Community and Child and Family Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe Place, Domestic Violence Services • Communities for Recover, Recovery Support • Bridges the Gap, Recovery Support <p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Star, Federally Qualified Health Clinic (FQHC) • Mano de Cristo, Dental Services • Eye Site Family Vision and EyeMart Express – Vision Services

	<p>Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foundation Communities <p>Mental Health and Health Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travis County Health and Human Services and Veterans Service • Austin Travis County Integral Care (Children's Services) • Austin Child Guidance Center • Capitol Area Counseling • The Children's Continuum <p>Education/Employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Texas Workforce Solutions <p>Other Evaluation and Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Texas at Austin • Encompass <p>Other</p>
Evaluation Design and Comparison Group Type	Experimental; Control Group, Random Selection, Usual Child Welfare/Substance Abuse Services
Performance Indicators	<p>Safety</p> <p>Upon entry into the program 108 children (44%) remained in the custody of their children, while 56% were placed in Kinship or Foster Care.</p> <p>Permanency</p> <p>Since inception, 157 of 175 (89.3%) of the children of discharged FDTC participants had permanency outcomes that included placement with a parent and/or a relative when final orders were entered. 10% were adopted by a non-relative.</p> <p>Recovery</p> <p>Since inception, 127 of 131 (97%) of PIR-FDCT participants who engaged in services, not including 20 PIR neutral discharges, successfully completed or were on target to complete 90 days of residential treatment.</p> <p>Well-Being</p> <p>All children receive screening for developmental and behavioral concerns and trauma. Children receive further assessments when indicated by screening or by referrals from other professionals and are then linked to age and developmentally appropriate services to address those concerns.</p>

**Sustainability
Status**

The grantee worked throughout the RPG I and Two-Year Extension grants to ensure sustainability of their project. The merger in Year 2 of RPG I with the Family Drug Treatment Court (FDTC) was a strategic move that definitely supported sustainability of services as it elevated the status of the program with county judges and other key stakeholders. The PIR Program Manager successfully led the sustainability planning efforts, ultimately involving all partners and key stakeholders in this multi-year plan. Concurrent with their sustainability planning, the PIR Project Director continued to engage other community service providers in the collaborative, leveraging other existing resources for families, such as medical and dental, without grant funding. The grantee also worked with the evaluator to collect and report on data that was of critical interest to partners and other key stakeholders. Despite cuts in funding, administrative changes and other reorganizations across partner agencies, the grantee and their partners completed the seven years of RPG funding with commitments to sustain almost all program components, continue their collaborative and maintain cross-systems data collection. The project director, previously funded with RPG funds, was hired by the Travis County Health and Human Services/Veteran Services and will continue to coordinate the FDTC program as well as other cross-systems programs.